GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
WATER RESOURCES
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:118
ANSWERED ON:19.11.2001
DEVASTATION BY RIVERS
BRIJBHUSHAN SHARAN SINGH

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware of the devastation caused by the rivers in Uttar Pradesh; and

(b) if so, the remedial measures being taken by the Government in this regard?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SMT. BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY)

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Flood Management being a State subject, flood control schemes are planned, funded and executed by the State Governments themselves out of their own resources and as per their own priorities. Central Government renders assistance that are technical, catalytical and promotional in nature.

The Ganga Flood Control Commission (GFCC) under the Ministry of Water Resources have however, prepared comprehensive plans for flood management for all the 23 river systems of Ganga basin including rivers flowing through Uttar Pradesh and forwarded the same to the State Governments for taking follow up action on the recommendations made in these plans. Both short term and long term measures have been suggested in these plans.

The Government of India has constituted several expert committees to study the problem of floods in the country. The Rashtriya Barh Ayog (RBA) set up in 1976 examined the problem in detail and submitted its report in 1980. The recommendation of RBA, which form the framework for flood management strategy in the country, including Uttar Pradesh, were forwarded to all the State Governments for implementation. Further, a number of other Expert Committees/Task Forces were constituted from time to time to examine the area/region specific problems relating to floods, whose recommendations were also sent to the respective State Governments for implementation.

The Central Government has also set up 159 flood Forecasting station on major interstate rivers which give timely advance warning to flood affected regions in various States including Uttar Pradesh for mitigating flood damages.

In December 1999, the Government of India had set up a Central team led by the Chairman, Ganga Flood Control Commission (GFCC) for assessment of critical anti erosion problems in Uttar Pradesh, Bihar and West Bengal. The team identified critical sites/reaches and recommended anti erosion measures to be taken up immediately by State Governments. With a view to provide financial assistance to the States to carry out river erosion works in critical reaches, a Centrally Sponsored Scheme, viz., "Critical-anti-erosion works in Ganga Basin States and raising and strengthening of embankments along Kosi and Gandak rivers" has been formulated during IX Five Year Plan and is in operation. An amount of Rs.8.00 crore has so far been released against the scheme, as advance to the State of Uttar Pradesh to take up the anti-erosion works.

For dealing with the problems of inundation in the vicinity of Indo-Nepal border a Standing committee on Inundation Problem between India and Nepal has also been constituted in the year 1986 to take care of flood problems near Indo-Nepal border between the countries. 11 meetings of the Committee have been held so far, in which various issues relating to inundation problem near India – Nepal border have been discussed and decision taken thereon from time to time for needful action in the matter.